

Ocean. They differ in size and form, and especially in the shape of the basal face and the ventral sinus, more or less from the Mediterranean species, but were not sufficient for the definition of distinct species. To enable this, a further accurate examination and comparison of the entire corm, from different localities, is required.

The most accurate description of the Mediterranean *Hippopodius gleba* (= *Hippopodius luteus*, Vogt, 6, very common on the Riviera) is given by Leuckart.¹ It differs somewhat from similar forms taken in other parts of the Mediterranean. That form which Kölliker has described as *Hippopodius neapolitanus* from Messina (= *Elephantopus neapolitanus*, Lesson, 3) seems to belong to the following genus, *Polyphyes*. The mouth of the nectosac is surrounded in the latter by six prominent teeth (four dorsal and two ventral), whilst it is smooth and toothless in *Hippopodius*. Another important difference between these two genera seems to be found in the composition of the cormidia. The clustered gonophores are diclinic, and attached to the base of the siphon in *Hippopodius*, whilst they are monoclinic and separated from it by a small interval in *Polyphyes*. Both genera together make up the subfamily Hippopodidæ.

The striking contradictions between various authors, respecting the sexual organs of *Hippopodius*, can be explained only by the assumption that these two similar genera have been confounded. The description which Leuckart has given of the diclinic cormidia of *Hippopodius gleba* (8) is as correct as that which Kölliker has given of the monoclinic cormidia of *Hippopodius neapolitanus* (4). The accuracy of these latter observations has been confirmed recently also by Weismann, in his work on *Die Entstehung der Sexual-Zellen bei den Hydromedusen* (1883, p. 194). He found in each cormidium associated a single female and two male gonophores. Perhaps these differences in the composition of the cormidia of the two genera are more important than those in the form of their nectophores.

Genus 34. *Polyphyes*,² Haeckel, 1888.

Polyphyes, Hkl., System der Siphonophoren, p. 36.

Definition.—Polyphyidæ with rounded horseshoe-shaped nectophores, the ostium of which is surrounded by six prominent apophyses. (Cormidia monoclinic. Gonophores separated from the base of the siphons.)

The genus *Polyphyes* differs from the preceding closely allied *Hippopodius* as well in the form of the nectophores as in the composition of the cormidia. The nectophores have in general the same horseshoe-shape as in *Hippopodius*; but in this latter their dorsal face is equally convex and smooth, and passes over into the lateral faces without a sharp edge. In *Polyphyes* their dorsal face is nearly quadrangular, and separated by two lateral parallel smooth edges from the lateral faces; further, the basal edge of their

¹ 8, pp. 299–309, Taf. xii. figs. 1–4.

² *Polyphyes* = Animal with numerous buds, πολυφύης.